

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----270526Z 006621 /22  
O R 270456Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7270  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6133

EXDIS

LONDON PASS NYE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, TECH, PINS, JA, US  
SUBJECT: FONOFF COMMENTS ON POLITICAL ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR  
ENERGY ISSUE

1. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF NON-PAPER ON FUEL CYCLE EVALUA-  
TION PROGRAM AT APRIL 25 MEETING (SEPTTEL), SCICOUNS ASKED  
FONOFF UN BUREAU DIRGEN OKAWA ABOUT RESULTS OF MINISTERIAL  
MEETING ON NUCLEAR POLICY HELD EARLIER THAT DAY. OKAWA REPLIED  
THAT THREE MINISTERS INVOLVED (UNO OF STA, HATOYAMA OF FONOFF  
AND TANAKA OF MITI) CONFIRMED THAT JAPAN WOULD CONTINUE TO  
EMPHASIZE TO US -- AT FORTHCOMING LONDON SUPPLIERS MEETING,  
SALZBERG CONFERENCE AND LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT -- THOSE SPECIAL  
CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH OBLIGED JAPAN TO ESTABLISH COMPLETE FUEL  
CYCLE. MINISTERS AGREED THAT JAPAN MUST NOT BE PUT INTO DIS-  
CRIMINATORY POSITION BY US VIS-A-VIS FRANCE AND UK AS WEAPONS  
STATES AND FRG AS NON-WEAPONS STATE. TO BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST  
RELATIVE TO FRG WOULD BE "INSUPPORTABLE" IN MINISTERS' VIEW.  
THEY AGREED TO CONTINUE TO PRESS US FOR SOLUTION TO TOKAI  
OPERATIONS PROBLEM AND FOR APPROVAL OF SHIPMENTS OF SPENT FUEL  
TO US AND FRANCE FOR REPROCESSING. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED PLANNING  
FOR SECOND FULL-SCALE REPROCESSING PLANT. UNO WAS AUTHORIZED  
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TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT ALONG ABOVE LINES, WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY  
APPEARED IN PRESS.

2. OKAWA THEN RAISED SERIOUS PROBLEM BEGINNING TO SURFACE IN  
OBTAINING DIET APPROVAL OF NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH IAEA.  
ON COMPLETION OF CURRENT DELIBERATIONS ON KOREAN CONTINENTAL  
SHELF AGREEMENT, ONLY THREE AND A HALF WEEKS WOULD REMAIN IN

CURRENT SESSION -- "TOO SHORT A TIME EVEN WITH A FRIENDLY DIET." ALREADY MANY STAUNCH LDP SUPPORTERS OF NPT RATIFICATION LAST YEAR WERE BEGINNING TO EXPRESS RESERVATIONS ABOUT APPROVAL OF SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT, CLAIMING THAT CONTRARY TO PROMISES MADE BY GOJ IN 1976 NPT DEBATE, JAPAN'S EFFORTS TO PURSUE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY WERE NOW BEING HAMPERED BY NEW US POLICY. OKAWA PREDICTED THAT PERCEIVED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JAPAN WOULD ONCE AGAIN BE BUGBEAR RAISED IN DIET DEBATE. OKAWA FEARED THAT THUS FAR HIS OWN EFFORTS TO PERSUADE DIET MEMBERS THAT NPT RATIFICATION HAD ENHANCED JAPAN'S PRESENT POSITION HAD NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY CONVINCING. HE URGED US PROVIDE GOJ WITH "AMMUNITION" TO DEMONSTRATE THAT ACCESSION TO NPT AND CONCOMMITANT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WERE IN FACT IN JAPAN'S BEST INTERESTS.

3. OKAWA NOTED THAT DIET DEBATE WOULD LIKELY CONCENTRATE ON POLITICAL ASPECTS OF NEW US NUCLEAR POLICY TO EXCLUSION OF TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF SAFEGUARDS. UNFORTUNATELY, HE WENT ON, ENTIRE NUCLEAR ISSUE WAS BEGINNING TO CENTER ON PERCEPTION OF HOW US WAS TREATING JAPAN IN NUCLEAR ENERGY FIELD -- EITHER AS TRUSTED AND RELIABLE ALLY OR AS SECONDARY NATION TO BE TREATED UNEQUALLY. JAPANESE PRESS TREATMENT WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY SENSATIONALIZED AND "UNHELPFUL," OKAWA CONCLUDED.

4. COMMENT. INFCEP PAPER IS FIRST DETAILED PROPOSAL TO EMERGE FROM GENERAL US NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT. AS SUCH, IT WILL REQUIRE EXTENSIVE EXPERT REVIEW BY GOJ AND PROBABLY OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL. WE DOUBT THAT GOJ WILL BE ABLE TO CONSTRUCT IN-DEPTH RESPONSE OR REACTION TO PAPER BY TIME OF LONDON

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SUPPLIERS' CONFERENCE. RATHER, USG WILL BE EXPECTED BY GOJ TO ELABORATE ON PAPER, SETTING FORTH PROPOSED SCHEDULES, VENUE, SHARING OF COSTS AND WORK, ETC. OF MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO GOJ (CONSIDERING THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF INFCEP WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME) IS (A) CLARIFICATION OF US INTENT TOWARD TOKAI REPROCESSING PLANT VS. OTHER NATIONAL REPROCESSING EFFORTS AND (B) IMPENDING MAJOR POLITICAL DEBATE ON NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT. ON LATTER SUBJECT, WE EXPECT THAT DIET -- DRIVEN BY SENSATIONAL PRESS COVERAGE BUT NOT BY PUBLIC SENTIMENT -- WILL FIND ITSELF IN PARTICULARLY ACRIMONIOUS DISCOURSE. TIMING OF DEBATE, WHICH HAS BEEN ON FORMAL DIET AGENDA FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, COULD NOT BE WORSE FOR GOJ, WHICH IS COMMITTED TO NPT AND CONSEQUENT SAFEGUARDS. ISSUE ALSO WILL BE CLOUDED BY PROSPECT OF UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS IN EARLY JULY. LDP IS CLOSE TO LOSING ITS MAJORITY AND WANTS TO AVOID INTERNALLY DIVISIVE ISSUES JUST WHEN IT IS TRYING TO DEMONSTRATE UNITY. ANY MEANS THAT CAN BE FOUND TO DEFUSE NUCLEAR ISSUE WILL STRENGTHEN LDP HANDS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Type:** TE  
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